

Stabenow—are in stalled negotiations with the White House over judges.

HONORING SAMUEL FISHER FOR HIS HEROIC SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Samuel Fisher, for his heroic service in World War II. As a rifleman with Company B, 49th Armored Infantry Battalion, Eighth Armored Division he helped participate in the final drive of the American and Allied armies that drove the Nazis from France and ended Hitler's rule over Germany. He, and the other brave soldiers of the 49th Armored Infantry, were instrumental in capturing the Ruhr Valley, the center of the German armament industry. By capturing the Ruhr, they deprived the Nazis of the weapons they had used for so long to bring oppression and death across Europe. I am proud to represent Samuel Fisher, and so many other American heroes from the Second World War, and urge this House to join me in thanking Samuel Fisher and all World War II veterans for saving our country, and the world, from fascism.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NANCY RATZLAFF

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a talented artist from Craig, Colorado. Nancy Ratzlaff uses her creative gift to inspire people to think outside the box. Her enthusiasm spirals through the community as she passes her knowledge of art to her students. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing Nancy's tremendous service to the Craig community.

At sixty-one years old, Nancy Ratzlaff has been painting for more than 4 decades. She is both a commissioned artist and a teacher of her trade. Three years ago, Nancy suffered a heart attack that caused her to lose her leg and spend 5 months in the hospital. However, despite cumbersome crutches and an artificial leg, she continues to find time to teach painting at Craig's Colorado Northwest Community College. Nancy encourages her students to learn from each other and let art open them up to new challenges. She maintains that everyone has a creative drive inside because anyone who can dream can create.

Mr. Speaker, Nancy Ratzlaff is a dedicated individual who uses her talent to enrich the lives of members of her Craig community. Nancy has demonstrated a love for art that resonates in her compassionate and selfless service to her town. Nancy's enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday and missed the votes. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: Rollcall number 620—"yes"; rollcall number 621—"yes"; rollcall number 622—"yes"; and rollcall number 623—"yes."

AMERICANS PUSH FOR RENEWED FIGHT AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, Congress has made good progress over the past 20 years in combating drunk driving, culminating when we passed legislation creating a national .08 blood alcohol content level in 2000. I am pleased that New York recently passed .08, which will save 500–600 lives in the U.S. annually when it is adopted by all states. All but a handful of states have .08 laws on the books—a testament to the effectiveness of the sanction.

Despite this progress, a disturbing complacency about drunk driving seems to have settled upon the nation. In 2002, alcohol-related fatalities rose for the third year in a row, and now account for well over 40 percent of all traffic fatalities. Last year, drunk driving took nearly 18,000 lives. Public policy experts are now beginning to grasp the full economic costs of drunk driving. When one factors health care costs, lost work time, collision repairs, and insurance, the price tag exceeds \$200 million annually.

Almost 6 years ago, a constituent, Burton Greene, was killed by a repeat offender with a .18 blood alcohol content. Mr. Greene's death inspired me to introduce legislation requiring tougher penalties for repeat offenders and high-BAC drivers.

About one-third of all drunk drivers are repeat offenders. Unfortunately, the lack of a national minimum standard for punishing repeat offenders and high-BAC drivers has created an easily exploitable, unwieldy patchwork of laws that varies from state to state. My legislation would require states to pass laws that employ a comprehensive approach to fighting drunk driving, including license restrictions, effective vehicle sanctions, treatment programs, ignition interlocks, fines, and imprisonment. This comprehensive system of penalties builds on the recommendations of numerous studies, as well as measures proven to be effective on the state and local level.

I am proud that Good Housekeeping magazine, which has always tackled the leading issues of the day, has become a partner in the effort to combat drunk driving. An article about Brigid Kelly, a young woman killed by an impaired driver with a suspended license, appeared in the July 2003 issue of the magazine. Brigid's senseless death, which has brought untold grief to her family and friends, is a wake up call to the nation and a powerful reminder of the stakes in the battle against drunk driving.

I was also touched by the response to the article. Over 6,000 readers took the time to write Good Housekeeping in support of national minimum standards for punishing repeat offenders. This outpouring leaves no doubt about where Americans stand on tougher penalties for chronic drunk drivers.

More than 40 people die daily from drunk driving. We should do all we can to prevent such tragedies. I encourage my colleagues to listen to the voices of Good Housekeeping's readers and support swift passage of the Burton Greene bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, this House considered H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2003. Our country has been waiting almost three years for a sound and comprehensive energy bill, and I am sad to say that they will still be waiting if H.R. 6 is signed into law.

It was my hope that rolling blackouts in California three years ago, the terrorist attacks on September 11 two years ago, and the massive blackouts in the northeast this past August would have provided Congress with the will and fortitude to pass a truly comprehensive energy bill. This bill should have presented a clear vision of what our energy policies should be well into the 21st century; provided us with the tools and resources to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and improve the security of our nation; and made investments in alternative and renewable fuels to provide better answers to our energy needs than simply encouraging more drilling and more pollution. It is crystal clear that H.R. 6 fails on all these counts.

The Republican leadership crafted this 1,700-page bill in secret and sold out to special interests. For months, Republican leaders presided over meetings in which they were supposed to be laying the foundation for the nation's long-term energy priorities. Instead, they chose to negotiate the bill alone, refusing even to tell their Democratic colleagues where or when important sessions were being held. I believe that cowering under the cloak of darkness and cutting backroom deals are not the ways a bill of this magnitude should be debated, discussed, and crafted.

The Energy Policy Act makes a number of changes to our nation's electricity system. The blackouts that wreaked havoc across parts of the Midwest and Northeast four months ago prompted legislators to include much-needed electricity reliability standards in the final bill. I believe this is a good first step in improving the transmission and distribution of the electricity that powers our homes and businesses. Despite this sound provision, H.R. 6 is wrong to repeal the Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA). PUHCA was designed to oversee mergers and prevent power companies from investing in unrelated businesses. PUHCA has been the linchpin in protecting investors and consumers from market fraud and abuse by utilities. By repealing PUHCA and not replacing it with a better alternative, the

risk of future Enron-type abuses increases exponentially and our constituents will be the victims.

I am pleased H.R. 6 does not include language that would allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) or allow for an inventory of oil reserves in our nation's Outer Continental Shelf—but, any benefits of this bill provides our environment stop there. The bill expedites the approval of permits for drilling and mining on federal lands. H.R. 6 also exempts oil and gas drilling activities from some of the major tenants of the Clean Water Act, such as exempting the industry from certain requirements when they inject diesel fuel and other harmful chemicals underground when drilling.

The most egregious provision of this bill grants the producers of MTBE, a gasoline additive that pollutes underground drinking water, a liability waiver. While the bill phases out the use of MTBE over the next decade, it makes taxpayers pick up the bill for cleaning up the mess. More incredulously, the bill provides the producers of MTBE \$2 billion in subsidies to help them convert MTBE into other types of chemicals. I believe this is simply unacceptable. Polluters should be made to clean up and pay for their messes, not the American taxpayer.

Altogether, the energy proposal includes \$23 billion in tax giveaways over 10 years and calls for tens of billions of dollars in additional spending. The Republican leadership rejected Senate provisions that would have partially paid for these costs, despite a deficit in the federal budget that could top \$500 billion this year. Two-thirds of the tax breaks would go to the oil, natural gas and coal industries, helping to perpetuate the country's dependence on fossil fuels. Less than a quarter of the tax breaks would promote the use and development of renewable-energy sources, and less than a tenth would reward energy efficiency or conservation.

It makes no sense to lavish billions of dollars in subsidies to companies that consistently earn large profits every year. The bill does encourage the use of some alternative fuels such as ethanol—which I strongly support—and \$2.5 billion to boost development of hydrogen-powered vehicles. However, the money allocated for renewable and alternative fuel development is a mere pittance of what is given to producers of traditional sources of energy.

This bill is equally bad for what it does not contain: the legislation does almost nothing to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign gas and oil and nothing to reduce global warming. For example, this bill does not increase the fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks. The bill may even wind up lowering the current 27.5 miles per gallon average since it discourages tougher standards. It also scraps a Senate plan that would have required electric utilities to generate more of their power from renewable sources like wind and solar energy by 2015. Finally, outside of a few provisions on electrical appliances and heating systems, the bill does not significantly encourage energy conservation.

Instead of creating and carrying out a vision in this bill, lawmakers have put together a jigsaw puzzle with hundreds of unrelated pieces crammed together. A few initiatives are worthwhile, but most look more like a laundry list of special-interest subsidies. Together, they do

not add up to a policy that I believe will come close to meeting our future energy needs. While it took three years to finish this energy bill, it is my fear that Congress will spend the next several decades fixing the problems this bill could eventually create.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LILLIAN KESSLER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my longtime friend Lillian Kessler. It is with sadness that I announce Lillian's recent passing. She resided in my 13th congressional district and I was pleased and proud to have her support and friendship for many years.

As a truly committed political and community activist, Lillian spent years volunteering in the community and working tirelessly to elect individuals to public office. She was proud to call herself a Democrat for more than 50 years. Lillian and her husband Mike were the first two people to encourage me to seek my present office in Congress.

Lillian was an active member in the Hayward Demos Democratic Club. Her fellow club members describe her as "a tower of strength for their club, the Democratic Party and progressives everywhere. She was a quintessential activist, organizing precinct walking, phone banks, fundraisers, all the necessary jobs to run and win grassroots campaigns."

I shall remember with fondness and admiration Lillian's passion, strength and perseverance to make a difference. She believed that just one progressive idea or action, no matter how small, could strengthen each and every community for the better.

Lillian will be sorely missed by me and all who knew her. My thoughts and condolences are with her husband Mike and her children, Civia and Stuart.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this conference report. H.R. 6 contains several harmful provisions including exempting the producers of MTBE from product liability claims and repealing the Public Utility Holding Company Act, which limits mergers between utilities companies. Additionally, the conference report does not prioritize the use of renewable resources by large utilities to generate power. H.R. 6 rolls back important safeguards in the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act which are critical in keeping the nation's waterways safe for people and wildlife. The country needs an energy policy that reduces pollution, protects consumers, and reduces the burden on the nation's electricity grid. This bill fails to meet those standards. I regret that we were not given the opportunity to vote on legislation that

would reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes 620, 621, 622 and 623. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on 620, 621, 622 and 623.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARILYN A. HALL

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Marilyn Hall of Cortez, Colorado is a dedicated public servant who has devoted many years to promoting safety and order in her community. Marilyn has a friendly soul and touches the heart of everyone she meets. I would like to join with my colleagues here today in recognizing Marilyn's tremendous service to the Cortez community.

Marilyn served the Cortez Police Department for 29 years. She began as a dispatcher and then moved to records before retiring. Marilyn was excellent at her job and was instrumental making the system of city and county record keeping significantly more efficient. In her retirement, Marilyn is an active community member who is a vigorous advocate for Mothers Against Drunk Drivers. In addition to volunteer work, Marilyn will spend her retirement with her many loving family members and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Marilyn Hall has shown incredible dedication in her service to the Cortez community. Marilyn's friendly assistance to others is a shining example of what it means to be a good citizen. It is my great honor today to recognize her excellent work ethic and selflessness before this body of Congress. Thanks Marilyn, you will be missed.

H.R. 2205: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE ACT

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my unparalleled support for this bill. However, I do not feel that this bill is complete in its entirety. Provisions concerning a feasibility study for a future sister museum facility at the site of the African Burial Ground in New York City, which were present in the Lewis/Watts bipartisan piece of legislation in the last session, are not included in this current bill. The erection of the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and